

Sirs:

I ask that you reject the NAB's petition 04-160.

The "local service" that the NAB is trying to stop XM radio from broadcasting is a valuable tool to XM subscribers. I use the local traffic info broadcast by XM all over the eastern US. It allows me to listen to conditions in the major cities and plan my travels long before I could even receive an FM signal from these cities.

Even subscribers that stay in just one city are benefitting from this service. The traffic and weather are constantly updated and this allows commuters to avoid delays. The less time the commuter is operating his vehicle, the less fuel is used and the less pollution is discharged as well.

I was an early adopter of XM, and I am very satisfied with their service. The addition of the traffic has made it even more valuable to me. I have even called their traffic info number to pass along an accident I saw happen on the opposite side of the interstate. It was less than 2 minutes later I heard the traffic report include this info. This was in the New York market and the best terrestrial station I found in that market (AM station) updates their traffic every 10 minutes on the 8's. When 3 lanes of traffic in the New York area are at a dead stop, how many more vehicles come to a halt in those extra 6 minutes?

I will also say that XM listens to its subscribers. The local FM stations listen to the corporation that runs it and 50 other stations. It's the same music over and over and tons of commercials. A lot of these stations brag about 5 or 6 songs in a row, I have a million in a row and don't mind paying for it.

Thank You

Mitchell Flahart